

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 4, 7, 8,10, and 12 are amended. New claims 13-16 have been added. The specification is amended to clarify the meaning of "formed in a body," as shown in FIG. 5. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Ge (US 5,859,508), in view of Koide et al. (US 6,100,943). Applicants submit that all of the claims currently pending in this application are patentably distinguishable over the cited references, and reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Independent claim 1 includes, among other limitations, "a control electrode surrounding each said anode electrode to accelerate or intercept the thermal electrons emitted from the plurality of filaments; wherein the control electrode is formed with a single-layered structure and is positioned directly on an insulating layer on one of the pair of substrates." Independent claim 13 includes, among other limitations, "a plurality of anode electrodes . . . having . . . a periphery in a plane parallel to the plane of the one of the substrates;" and "a control electrode surrounding the each anode electrode at the periphery of the each anode electrode."

However, as the Examiner correctly states in the Office action, the control electrode G1 of the Ge reference does not surround the anode electrode, as required by the independent claim 1 [and 13]. See, Office action, page 3. Moreover, the control electrode G1 of the Ge reference is not "positioned directly on an insulating layer on one of the pair of substrates," as required by the independent claim 1. As seen in Figs. 5A and 5B of Ge, the electrode G1 is positioned on a spacer structure. The spacer structure is then positioned on a black matrix (corresponding to the insulating layer of the claimed invention), and the black matrix is then placed on the anode, which is then placed on the face plate.

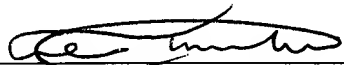
Koide, in FIG. 1, discloses a prior art fluorescent display tube, in which fluorescent members 53 are located inside the grids 52. Similarly, FIG. 2 of Koide depicts a two-sided fluorescent display tube, in which fluorescent members 3 are "encapsulated" in the grids 2. Applicants are unable to find any teachings or suggestions in Koide for "a control electrode surrounding each said anode electrode to accelerate or intercept the thermal electrons emitted from the plurality of filaments; wherein the control electrode is formed with a single-layered structure and is positioned directly on an insulating layer on one of the pair of substrates," as required by the independent claim 1, or "a plurality of anode electrodes . . . having . . . a

periphery in a plane parallel to the plane of the one of the substrates;" and "a control electrode surrounding the each anode electrode at the periphery of the each anode electrode," as required by the independent claim 13. The grids 2 of Koide "encapsulate," and do not surround the fluorescent members 3. Further, the encapsulation of the fluorescent members 3 by the grids 2 is not at a "periphery in a plane parallel to the plane of the one of the substrates," as required by the independent claim 13.

As a result, neither Ge, nor Koide, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests all of the limitations of the independent claims 1 and 13. In short, the independent claims 1 and 13 define a novel and unobvious invention over the cited references. Dependent claims 2-12 and 14-16 are all dependent from claims 1 and 13, respectively and therefore include all the limitations of their respective independent claims and additional limitations therein. Accordingly, these claims are also allowable over the cited references, as being dependent from allowable independent claim 1 and for the additional limitations they include therein.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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